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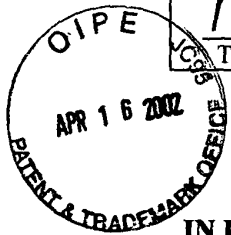
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF:
DE VRIES et al.

Group Art Unit: 1638**APPLICATION NO.:** 09/180,798**Examiner:** Mehta, Ashwin D.**FILED:** November 16, 1998**Docket:** S-137-1103B**FOR:** PRODUCTION OF APOMICTIC SEED**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT****RECEIVED**

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Sir:

Applicant respectfully request that the Examiner consider the preliminary amendments and attending remarks.

In the specification:

Please add the following sentence immediately after the title of the invention on page 1:

—This application is a continuation of PCT/EP97/02443, which claims priority from

European Application No. 01108901.8—

Please add the following heading following the title of the invention on page 1:

—Field of Invention—

Please add the following heading following the first paragraph on page 1: